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U.S. Rep. Harry Teague, D-Las Cruces, and local health care administrator Charlie Alfero recently participated in a U.S. House Veterans Affairs Committee roundtable discussion about the needs of New Mexico's rural veterans.

Rep. Teague invited Alfero, CEO of Hidalgo Medical Services, to participate in the "Meeting the Unique Health Care Needs of Rural Veterans" roundtable. Hidalgo Medical Services provides primary medical, dental, mental health, family support and economic development services in Hidalgo and Grant counties.

During the roundtable members of the House Veterans Affairs committee heard from participants on a range of topics including: expanding access for mental health care for the Guard and Reserve, identifying the unique needs of women veterans in rural areas, how to leverage existing health infrastructure for rural veterans, tele-medicine and tele-health, and the potential for mobile health care for rural veterans.

